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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
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SCOTT BUSHMAN  
CRAIG WILLIAM CHRISTIAN

Group Art Unit: 2813

Examiner: E. Kielin

Serial No.: 09/880,975

Atty. Dkt. No.: 2000.045300/TT325

Filed: June 13, 2001

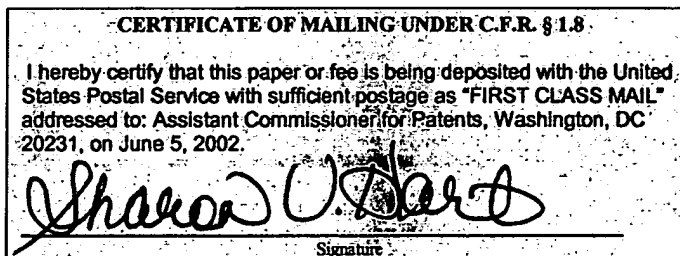
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
CONTROLLING A THICKNESS OF A  
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2813  
#4/Action  
6/29/02  
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED MAY 7, 2002**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:



This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed May 7, 2002, for which the response date is June 7, 2002.

In response to the restriction requirement imposed by the Office Action, applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute **group I** claims. Furthermore, in response the species restriction requirement imposed by the Office Action, applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute **species Id** claims.

Additionally, claim 1, which the Examiner considers to be a generic claim, is a linking claim that links the species claims in group I. See MPEP§ 809.03(a). Furthermore, claim 22 (group II) is a claim to "means" for practicing the process claims set forth in the Group I claims.

According to MPEP § 806.05(e), a "means" claim is a linking claim and must be examined with the elected invention. If it is ultimately allowed, rejoinder is required. See MPEP § 809.03 and § 809.04. Claims 1 and 22 satisfy the criteria set forth in MPEP § 806.05(e) and § 809.03 as linking claims, and they are therefore entitled to examination with the elected Group I claims. Applicant hereby requests that claims 1 and 22 be examined in the elected Group Id claims. Applicants respectfully assert that there is no undue burden upon the Office in examining the aforementioned claims together.

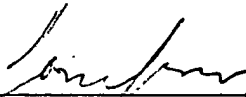
No fee is believed due as a result of the response contained herein. However, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from 01-0365/2000.045300/TT3258.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (713) 934-4050 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

June 5, 2002



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